

Stimulus News You Can Use

WSDOT's informal weekly update about the
American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (Recovery Act)

Wednesday, September 23, 2009



The stimulus story this week

Low bids on Washington state and local Recovery Act highway projects are helping fund more stimulus projects. Six newly certified stimulus projects will complete four paving or rehabilitation projects, construct a park and ride facility, and build a transit facility. Three transit agencies won \$7.4 million in grant awards for new environmental projects, including bus purchases, hybrid propulsion systems, and solar panels. Also, WSDOT and local governments reported seven additional Recovery Act highway projects complete for a total of 33 state and local completed projects.

This week by the numbers (project dollars in millions):

<i>Individual highway projects</i>	State	Local	Total	Notes
Total funds	\$340	\$152	\$492	
Obligated funds*	\$222.5 (65%)	\$131.8 (87%)	\$354.3 (72%)	Funds FHWA approved All funds must be obligated by March 1, 2010
Projects certified	37 (100%)	153 (100%)	190 (100%)	Six new projects certified this week
Projects obligated	36 (97%)	138 (93%)	174 (94%)	FHWA has approved some or all funds for the projects
Project delivery to date				
Operationally complete	9 (24%)	24 (16%)	33 (17%)	Seven projects reported complete this week
Awarded	28 (78%)	129 (84%)	157 (83%)	One local project awarded this week
Advertised	31 (84%)	137 (90%)	168 (88%)	No new advertisements this week
Certified, awaiting advertisement	6 (16%)	16 (10 %)	22 (12%)	These projects, including several receiving surplus funds, are planned for upcoming advertisement
<i>Safety funding buckets (\$12 stimulus)</i>	Rumble strips	Cable median barrier	Total	Notes
Awarded	17	6	23	Includes only state Recovery Act funds
Advertised	27	7	34	Includes only state Recovery Act funds
<i>Transit projects</i>	Large urban	Small urban	Nonurban/ rural	State total/Notes
Percent of total \$179 awarded	97%	97%	100%	98%
Number of transit projects obligated	33 of 35	18 of 19	20 of 20	52 of 55 FTA counts all rural projects as one project
<i>August employment</i>	State	Local	Total	Notes
Payroll	\$5	\$4.3	\$9.3	Average wage is \$37/hour
Hours	130,386	121,739	252,125	Up from 144,308

				hours in July
FTEs	754	704	1,458	FTE = 173 hours per month
Individuals paid in part or total with stimulus funds	2,220	3,213	5,433	Note: Not a count of unique employees
*\$4M in state enhancement funds provided to locals. While WSDOT controls \$340M, the total for obligation authority is \$344M, which is the basis of the percentages in this table, and basis for USDOT Review on 3/01/10.				

Key issues: State

- **Seven more Recovery Act highway projects completed** – WSDOT and local governments across Washington completed seven more Recovery Act highway projects, bringing the number of completed projects to 33. WSDOT completed a paving project on US 395 in Stevens County. Six local projects in five counties were completed and opened to traffic.
 - [WSDOT – US 395/Spokane Co Line to Loon Lake - Paving](#)
 - [Jefferson County – Center Road Overlay Phase 4](#)
 - [Kennewick – Columbia Overlook Phase 1](#)
 - [Yakima County – Terrace Heights Drive](#)
 - [Union Gap – Wide Hollow Creek Pathway Phase 2](#)
 - [Deer Park – Crawford Ave Phase V](#)
 - [Ridgefield – Hillhurst Rd Overlay](#)
- **Six more projects certified for stimulus funds** – Governor Gregoire certified six more individual highway projects for [Tier 2 funds](#), or the surplus Recovery Act dollars that are made available due to low bids on the original list of projects. Including the new projects, 190 state and local projects are now certified to receive stimulus funds.
 - The new state project, I-82/Granger to W Grandview – EB Dowel Bar Retrofit and Concrete Rehab, is receiving over \$7.6 million in surplus Recovery Act funds. Another stimulus project is improving the westbound lanes of I-82 in the same area.
 - Five new local projects are receiving \$3.15 million in surplus funds
 - Anacortes – 6th Street Reconstruction
 - Columbia County – Patil Creek Overlay (Lewis Gulch Road to Nysoe)
 - Mountlake Terrace – 230th Reconstruction Project (56th to 61st Avenues)
 - North Bend – North Bend Park and Ride
 - University Place – Intermodal Transit Facility – Phase 2
- **Washington state transit agencies won three TIGGER grants** – Washington state transit agencies won \$7.4 million in Recovery Act grants for environmentally-friendly projects. The Transit Investments for Greenhouse Gas and Energy Reduction (TIGGER) grant awards were announced on September 21. The Federal Transit Administration awarded \$100 million to 43 transit projects nationwide.
 - Clark County Public Transportation Benefit Area received \$1.5 million to improve energy systems at its facilities and install solar panels.
 - Link Transit in received \$2.9 million to replace five diesel buses with lithium-ion titanate battery powered buses and constructs a charging station.
 - Community Transit received \$3 million to add a hybrid propulsion system on 30 40-foot diesel buses that are already being purchased.

- **Workers earned \$9 million in August** – Employees worked over 250,000 hours and earned more than \$9.3 million on state and local Recovery Act highway projects in August. It was the busiest month yet for employees as payroll increased \$3.9 million (72%) and labor hours increased almost 108,000 (75%) from July. Workers earned an average salary of \$37.
 - WSDOT reports state and local employment data on Recovery Act projects each month. See the table above for more August employment data.
- **Disadvantaged businesses are participating in WSDOT Recovery Act contracts** – The WSDOT Office of Equal Opportunity has identified opportunities for Disadvantaged Business Enterprises (DBE) to participate in Recovery Act projects.
 - 27 of 33 WSDOT Recovery Act contracts have contained DBE participation goals as a condition of award. WSDOT determined six projects could not sustain DBE goals due to their size and specialization, or the unavailability of DBE firms.
 - Prime contractors have committed to DBE participation of almost \$10.7 million (6.3%), or \$673,000 higher than the DBE participation goal of \$10 million (5.9%), of the \$170 million awarded for Recovery Act state highway projects.
 - Three contracts have been awarded to DBEs participating as prime contractors.
- **New median cable barrier project advertised** – WSDOT advertised a new cable median barrier project for SR 8 from Elma to the junction with US 101 in Grays Harbor and Thurston counties. The project is anticipated to receive about \$2.35 million out of the \$9 million in Recovery Act funds for median cable barrier improvements statewide.
- **Skagit County's Guemes Island ferry project is certified** – The Guemes Island ferry terminal replacement project that received a \$750,000 Recovery Act grant in July is now certified. The project will build a new ferry terminal building on the Anacortes side.
- **One more highway project awarded**
 - **Local project**
 - Battle Ground – North Parkway Improvement N 5th to Onsdorff

Key issues: National

- **States and agencies preparing for October 10th OMB report** – The White House Office of Management and Budget is preparing states and agencies for its first quarterly performance report on October 10. Agencies receiving stimulus funds are required to submit a thorough report on project spending and job creation. The report will be available to the public on October 30.
- **Washington submitted September status report to House T & I Committee** – WSDOT submitted its seventh report to the U.S. House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee on project performance and employment.
 - The September report also included analysis on how Washington distributed projects to economically distressed areas and also across the six WSDOT regions.
 - The WSDOT congressional reports are posted on the stimulus [reporting webpage](#).
 - The next report is expected to be submitted in November.

- **USDOT announced \$20 million for Disadvantaged Business Enterprises (DBE)** – The DBE Bonding Assistance program will help DBEs compete for work on Recovery Act transportation projects. The program allows DBEs to apply for reimbursement of bonding premiums and fees incurred when competing for or performing on Recovery Act projects. See the WSDOT [Equal Opportunity](#) webpage for more information.
- **Almost 4,000 Recovery Act highway projects under construction nationwide** – The FHWA [website](#) reported that 3,966 stimulus projects costing \$11 billion are under construction in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and on federal lands. Almost \$2 billion has been expended on projects. The FHWA has obligated almost \$18.9 billion of \$26.8 billion (70%) to 7,635 projects.

Stimulus project of the week

Recovery Act funds help build Aberdeen Transit Station

With the help of an [American Recovery and Reinvestment Act](#) grant and additional funding from a Federal Transit Administration grant, Grays Harbor Transit has started construction of the Aberdeen Transit Station expansion and improvement project.

The project is designed to enhance safety for both riders and local traffic and to accommodate future growth of bus ridership. The Transit Station improvements include expanding the size of the station, installing better lighting, adding security cameras and providing a covered seating area for passengers. A park and ride lot will be expanded to provide parking for up to 35 vehicles, and sidewalks and bike racks will make the station more accessible.

Currently, buses leaving the station pull onto Wishkah Street, one of the busiest traffic corridors through Aberdeen, and must merge across three lanes of traffic in order to turn onto their routes. When the station project is completed, bus traffic will enter onto a less busy street where they will be routed to a signalized intersection to cross Wishkah. These revisions will help improve traffic flow and vehicle safety.



"Without these funds, we were about \$500,000 short and would have needed to scale the project back," said Mark Carlin, Grays Harbor Transit General Manager. "The federal funds allow us to complete the project the way it was designed, giving us a sheltered area for passengers and room for expansion of service in the future. These funds are definitely being used for a good cause."

Important dates

- **September 30:** National Fish Passage Program habitat restoration grant application due
- **October 2:** Applications for Track 2 FRA High-Speed Passenger Rail grants are due
- **October 10:** WSDOT submits first new federal OMB quarterly performance report
- **October 30:** Recovery.gov to publish OMB performance reports online

Websites of interest

- WSDOT recovery act website: <http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/funding/stimulus>
- Washington recovery act website: <http://www.recovery.wa.gov/>
- Federal recovery act website: <http://www.recovery.gov/>
- FHWA recovery site: <http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/economicrecovery/index.htm>
- Federal Transit Administration recovery site: www.fta.dot.gov/recovery
- Federal Rail Administration recovery site: www.fra.dot.gov/us/content/2153
- Federal Aviation Administration recovery site: <http://www.faa.gov/recovery>
- OMB recovery website: http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/recovery_default/